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Safer moorings

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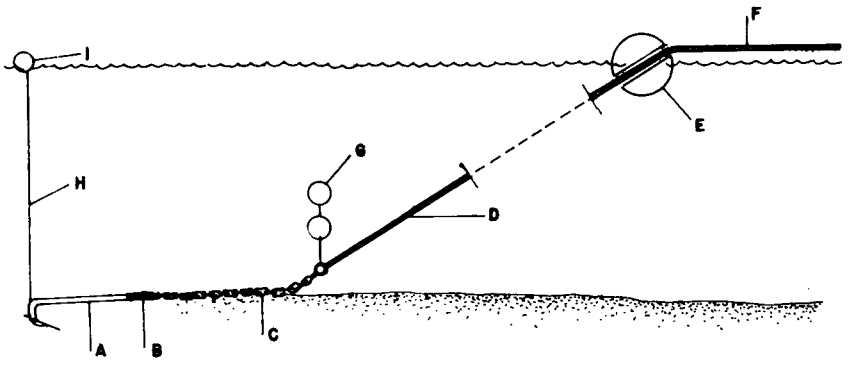
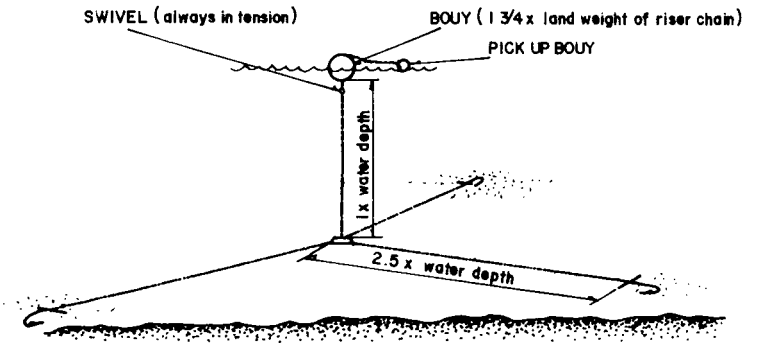
Safer moorings

A mooring system must be powerful enough to resist the worst possible combination of winds, waves, and tides. To achieve this, cages are attached to the seabed with ropes or chains and anchors.



A typical mooring: A, anchor; B, special connector; C, chain that is equal to the water depth; D, rope for the buoy (4x water depth); E, mooring bouy; F, rope for the fish cage; G, chain-lifting floats; H, rope (1.5x water depth); I, marker buoy



Single-point mooring

In a single-point mooring, the cage is secured to one buoy with one chain or rope to the seabed. It allows the cage to swing to the point of least resistance. It is essential to have a swivel situated immediately under the buoy.

Fixed moorings are used in 90% of fishfarms. Cages are tethered at several points so they do not swing to the elements. When accidents happen, there is a better chance of saving the farm. However, fixed moorings are more expensive.

Consider moorings as any piece of mechanical equipment with moving parts: **they need regular maintenance**. Don't use shackles unless you simply cannot avoid it. Splice rope directly into the last link of heavy chain if possible. If you have to use shackles, weld them shut. Where rope joins chain, the rope must be protected from abrasion on the seabed.

Source: A Thoms. *Pointers to safer moorings.* **FishFarmer** Vol. 12 No. 3, May/June 1989.